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MONTANA LABOR MARKE

Monthly Review of Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYALENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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AUGUST, 1958

Montana Wage Earners Reach 171,500 In July

Number of workers on Montana's non-agricultural payrolls moved upward from June to July with the usual seasonal strength. In mid-July 171,500 were at work according to estimates prepared by the Unemployment Compensation Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The figure represents a gain of 1,900 over June with the adjusted figure for that month set at 169,600. Continued employment growth was evident in most of the major industry groups but with more tempered force than the previous month when 6,100 workers joined the wage earner ranks.

Exceeds February Low by 20,000

Indicating the effect of seasonality on wage earner totals in the State, July employment rose 20,100 above the number earning wages at the seasonal low last February. A suggestion of sound economic growth is found in the fact that seasonal gains, mid-winter to July, exceeds last year's seasonal growth by 1,000. Only twice in the past ten years have seasonal gains been higher, in 1950 and 1956. Seasonal advances will continue to add to payrolls during August when traditionally the employment peak is seen, and will most likely carry over into September.

Major Industries Continue Gains

Seasonal advances in most major industry groups continued to add strength to the State's economy. Manufacturing had 700 more workers than in June, contract construction added 400 to its payrolls, and trade and service industries provided 700 more jobs than the previous month. Government employment, at 33,900, was up 1,300 from July of last year. Metal mining employment totals dropped 100 from June, and were 2,200 less than last year.

Metal Mining Problems Remain

While mining company officials talked optimistically of the future, 28 per cent of the State's total unemployment compensation claim load for the week ending August 8th, was concentrated in the Butte area. Long time miners, now unemployed, find it hard to believe that three years ago com-pany officials predicted an increase of 2,500 in mining employment totals by 1960, and a population increase from 10 to 12 thousand. Members in good standing in the Butte Miners Union dropped from 5,000 a year ago, to approximately 1,800-graphic evidence of loss of purchasing power in circles of trade and commerce. An estimated 2.500 workers have left the area since serious lay-offs started in July, 1957, and automation, in the form of the Berkeley Pit crusher-conveyor plant, is firmly entrenched on the scene. This system is capable of

JULY JOBSEEKER TOTAL REDUCED 5,000 AS STATE APPROACHES EMPLOYMENT PEAK

The active seasonal upsurge continued in most major industry divisions during July offices of the Montana State Employment Service. At month's end, 11,784 job applicants were counted compared to 16,832 at the end of June when young people, high school and college graduates, dominated May to June changes in unemployment following the pattern set each year at the close of school. Seasonal expansion in construction, lumbering and logging, agriculture and the trade and service industries brought improved employment conditions, and provided 2,000 more jobs during the month. Some jobs went unfilled as the demand for carpenters, clerical and sales personnel, and professional workers exceeded

Insured Unemployment Continues Drop
Insured unemployment in Montana at the end of July was 3.8 per cent compared to with other states. A month ago Montana ranked 27th when insured unemployment stood at 4.6 per cent. West Virginia, with 11.2 per cent of the insured labor force unemployed, was highest in the nation, followed by Michigan with 10.6 per cent. At the bottom of the chart was South Dakota with .9 per cent of the insured work force idle. Altogether, 34 states reported reductions in the number of insured unemployed workers.

	Work	-Applicant	Count	in Review			
1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
February 23,750	16,695	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336
April 19,579	12,066	7,974	9,227	8,945	6,043	5,705	7,048
June 16,832	7,943	4,694	5,274	5,403	3,910	2,957	4,240
July 11,784	6,419	3,807	4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260
August* 8,900	5,872	2,808	2,458	3,519	2,069	1,619	2,370
October	8,041	3,763	3,348	4,038	2,688	1,955	2,572
December	16,432	10,325	9,351	8,613	7,932	7,517	6,694

handling 2,000 tons of ore an hour from the pit loading area to the stockpile or bins. If open pit operations are able to supply sufficient copper to maintain the smelter at nearly normal levels of employment, the question remains as to what condition would have to arise to force the return of large scale underground mining operations. Patiently, the Butte miner waits for the answer. Meanwhile Congress debates the merits of overlapping subsidy bills to benefit domestic mineral producers. The senate bill would empower the secretary of interior to borrow 350 million dollars from the treasury to finance a proposed five year price stabilization plan. The house interior committee measure would require an appropriation, a remote possibility this late in the season. Some advocates are hopeful a one-year borrowing compromise can be effected if and when the bill goes to a senate-house conference committee. The price support program would allow the government to pay domestic producers the difference between going market prices and stabilization prices set for the subsidized minerals.

Building In Great Variety

Building constrction is an active force in the State and has many shapes and forms: super-markets, TV centers, grain elevators, motels, and elementary school and college structures. Several National Guard armories are under way or projected. Plans were an-

Highway Employment at Record Level

2,430 workers employed on construction and maintenance of the state highway system equalled the record set in July, 1956, and were 450 higher than last year at this time. Highway contractors kept 1,645 workers busy on construction and improvement of 680 miles of highways, bridge construction, and crushing and stockpiling of gravel. Good progress was noted, and 17 projects were completed during the month. 785 workers were engaged in maintenance and repair work.

Farm Employment Continues Bright

Despite some hail losses in south central Montana and earlier drought conditions in some northeastern counties grain harvest prospects are expected to yield a bumper crop. Heavy demand is seen for harvest hands during August and September. Cherry harvest in Polson and Kalispell areas completed earlier than usual due to advanced ripening. Canning of Gallatin Valley peas started late in July and will extend three weeks. Start of sweet corn harvest in Billings area will begin mid-August and will occupy for 30 days Indian labor recruited from Lame Deer.

nounced in Billings by an Idaho firm for construction of a 3-million dollar super-market on a 30-acre tract near the city. City street improvement and repair, expansion of airport facilities, and remodeling of commercial buildings occupied many workers. A Helena firm plans construction of 40 homes in the capital city.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Aug. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipshurg—(299 jobseekers, 158 new; 191 men, 108 women). Completion of repair of zinc concentrator expected within a month; workers idled in shut down of some plant departments transferred to other sections. Employment stable with only limited hiring for replacements. Work started on 12.9 miles of highway and 3 more road contracts let for work in Deer Lodge and Granite Counties. High agricultural activity noted, especially in haying. Bus strike settled early this month, 40 workers re-employed.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,689 jobseekers, 431 new; 1,173 men, 516 women). Heavy construction in the shape of new highway south of Hardin, two overpasses and one bridge on interstate highway between Billings and Laurel. Home building permits total \$104,000. Commercial structures include one-half million dollar TV center, implement company warehouse and business machine office building. Hail damage repair work next 30 days, estimated 34 million dollars. Retail trade responded to heavy advertising a n d promotional gimmicks wholesale trade below par. Railroad hiring slow with one gang of 35 workers to be pared next month.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(700 jobseekers: 247 new; 522 men, 178 women). Construction activities on schedule include state college greenhouse, class room and office building, new Montana Power Company building, and city street improvement consisting of 90 city blocks. Logging operations at full force and no shortage of woods labor anticipated. Improvement of airport runways progressing satisfactorily.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(2,236 jobseekers, 555 new; 1,800 men, 436 women) Continuing small scale layoffs still plague metal mining. Construction provided brighter prospects with most skilled craftsmen employed. Work continues on elementary school huilding, and contract let for new super-market to replace one destroyed by fire. Idled miners accepting agricultural employment in areas of need throughout the state.

CUT BANK—(275 jobscekers, 66 new; 205 men, 70 women). Radar base housing and administration building provided employment for building craftsmen. Other building limited, some commercial building remodeling jobs completed. Plans for construction of grain storage tanks await crop prospect reports. Oil exploration and drilling activities on intermittent basis.

DILLON—(91 jobseekers, 206 new; 56 nen, 35 women). Approximately 50 craftsmen engaged in residential construction work. Work on men's dormitory of college to start next 30 days. \$100,000 appropriated for construction of National Guard Armory.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	July 1958	June 1958	July 1957	July Avg. 1950-1957
Industrial Employment New Job Applications Job Applicants, End of Month	171,500 4,388 11,784	169,600 6.501 16,832	176,600 4,864 6,41 9	163,800 3,275 4,099
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Aug. 8 1958	July 4 1958	Aug. 8 1957	Avg. 1st Aug. Wk. 1950-1957
New and Renewal Claims Unemployed Weeks Filed Total Unemployment Claims		802 5,661 6,463	521 2,857 3,378	189 1,231 1,420

Oiling of city streets 75 per cent completed; highways south and west of town 50 per cent completed. Hay crops good with labor in balance but shortages seen next 30 days.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(285 jobseekers, 206 new; 178 men, 107 women). Variety of activities at airbase occupy 900 workers, 197 more than last month. Shortage of 50 carpenters evident. Flow of migratory labor to area has dwindled. Start of harvest reveals winter wheat yielding 7 to 15 bushels per acre while hay in short supply and livestock feed reserves are low.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(120 jobseekers, 93 new; 68 men, 52 women). No new oil drilling starts recorded; crew of 14 workers idled when one rig stacked. Highway bridge nears completion and 4 smaller ones under construction. Work began on an air force radar facility in nearby hills. 25 new homes was bright spot in construction activity. Construction at Circle includes new homes, service station, swimming pool, grain elevator and hospital additions, and telephone network.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,440 jobseekers, 431 new; 807 men, 633 women). Hiring in non-agricultural industries held steady, high-lighted by upsurge in contract construction. Improvements seen in trade and service industries. Rainy weather earlier in month retarded some construction activity. Excellent hay crops reported but cutting delayed due to wet weather. Small grain harvest delayed with 15 per cent of the crop cut in Choteau county. Heavy demands seen for harvest hands during August and September.

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HAMILTON, Stevensville—(203 jobseekers, 111 new; 132 men, 71 women). Increased hiringnoted in lumbering and logging, and metal mining. Cherry picking completed and canning operations under way. Delay in ripening caused some workers to leave area before completion of picking. Raspberry harvest completed with yields better than year ago.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem — (219 jobseekers, 104 new; 122 men, 97 women). Railroad repair work in area down sharply from last year. 40 workers employed on steel gang at Inverness. Prospects for good grain harvest in Hill county assured; sufficient labor and machines available.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(512 jobseekers, 260 new; 366 men, 146 women). A variety of construction activities dominated the local labor market scene; a new bank, bowling alley, valley irrigation project, Canyon Ferry road and city street improvement program. 40 new homes scheduled for construction. Building of a new cafe completed, now operating with 22 employees. Demand for service workers increased as tourist season advanced.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1.333 jobseekers, 418 new; 960 mcn, 373 women). Building construction limited to radar station and smaller remodeling jobs within the city. Lumbering increased after two night shifts were added in planing mills, and re-opening of smaller stud mills. Accelerated tourist traffic added workers to payrolls of trade and service industries. Settlement of lumber and sawmill workers strike in Libby area stimulated demand for woodsmen and limited number of sawmill workers.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(105 jobseekers, 55 new; 54 men. 51 women). Upswing noted in construction and trade industries. Enlargement of facilities at fish hatchery started August 1. 15 additional workers to be employed on night shift of U. S. Gypsum Company at Heath. Local labor sufficient to meet all needs. Winter wheat and barley well under way with better than average yields expected. Winter wheat yield 30 to 40 bushels per acre with some yielding 50 bushels. Continuing warm weather should bring harvest to completion in 30 days.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(118 jobseekers, 85 new; 66 men, 52 women). 85 employees on highway project; additional hires expected as project expands. Local contractors busy on private home construction. The lumber industry looks healthy with one large mill adding a second shift; increased employment expected as supply of logs accumulates. Woods crews operating in full force. Very little change noted in railroad employment. Rain delayed some agricultural activities and made haying difficult.

NINE YEARS OF	MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in T	iousands) –

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1950 1	33.2	132.2	135.2	142,1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
	41.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953 1	45.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954 1	46.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956 1	154.3	152,1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167,9	165.2	166.7
1957 1	159.0	157.8	158.6	163.0	168.6	174.8	176.9	176.8	175.2	170.0	165.4	161.1	167.3
1958 1	154.6	151.4	151.7	157.4	163.5	169.6	171.5						

Along the Hiring Line-Field Summary Aug. 1

(Continued from Page Two)

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry—(157 jobseekers, 132 new; 108 men, 49 women. No new construction projects evident during the month. Finances delayed starts of several residences. Less demand in trade and service industries noted. Shortage classifications remain in the clerical fields due to lower wages than other areas.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior

-(1.064 jobseekers, 298 new; 717 men, 347 women). Weather affected most hiring dur-ing first half of month. Woods and mill workers added to pay rolls as threatened strike in sawmill industry averted. Two contracts for road work in area let with only limited hiring. Railroad activity rose but not on par with last year. Trade and service in-dustries expanded to meet tourist demands. Agricultural hiring kept pace with increased demands.

POLSON—(248 jobseekers, 201 new; 200 men, 48 women). Harvest of cherry crop carlier than last year as fruit ripened more evenly. 40 workers employed on construction of large planing and sawmill; 20 oc-cupied on addition to local hospital. No highway construction projects in sight. Surplus of unskilled workers, high school and college youths seeking summer employment.

... SHELBY, Chester, Conrad — (180 jobseckers, 138 new; 135 men, 45 women). Hiring in service and oil field activities slow. Automation caused release of 18 telephone operators as Conrad converted to dial system. 3 highway construction projects let with hiring to carry until fall, weather per-mitting. Some residential construction evi-dent. Granaries being completed to hold grain harvest. Heavy demand seen for harvest workers next two weeks.

SIDNEY—(103 jobseekers, 54 new; 72 men, 31 women). Carpenters in short supply as contract construction grows rapidly; new homes, motel addition, bottling plant and grain elevator. Increase in trade and service industries expected as harvest progresses. City and county street and road improvement projects progressing satisfac-torily. Safflower mill scheduled for construction earlier postponed until 1959 pending outcome of acreage yield returns this

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(198 jobseekers, 51 new; 147 men, 51 women). Noxon Rapids Dam employment totals 797. Completion of some phases of project shifted idled workers to other jobs. Power house equipment installation on schedule. Work on decking of highway bridge delayed due to carpenter shortage. Riprapping of railroad grades slow as quarry site and access roads under construction.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey -(209 jobseekers, 88 new; 151 men, 58 women). Surplus of inexperienced workers and students in local office files. Highway work leads the construction field with projects at Wolf Point, Scobey, and Brockton. Award of new contracts at Wolf Point and Cul-bertson will bring activity during August. Work to begin early August on new church at Wolf Point and school at Flaxville. Four oil drilling rigs active compared to 2 last month. Three new drilling locations spotted during July.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL **INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)**

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Produced in co-operation with Unite		PLOYME		Net C	hange
INDUCTOV	i——			June '58	July '57
INDUSTRY	July 1958 (2)	June 1958 (3)	July 1957	July '58	to
NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	171,500	169,600	176,900	1,900	— 5,400
Manufacturing	21,300	20,600	22,300	700	-1,000
Durable goods	14,100	13,600	14,900	500	_ 800
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,400 4,400 1,300	8,000 4,300 1,300	8,500 5,100 1,300	400 100 00	
Nondurable goods	7,200	7,000	7,400	200	200
Food and kindred products	3,400 1,600 1,200 1,000	3,200 1,600 1,200 1,000	3,500 1,600 1,200 1,100	200 00 00 00	$\begin{array}{ccc} - & 100 & \\ & 00 & \\ & & 00 \\ - & 100 & \end{array}$
Mining	9,200 5,400 800 3,000	9,200 5,500 900 2,800	900	- 100	-2,200
Contract Construction	14,200 4,300 6,200 3,700	13,800 4,000 6,100 3,700	15,100 5,800 4,800 4,500	400 300 100 00	-1,500 1,400
Transportation and utilities	20,100 10,300 4,300 5,500		12,200 4,000	100 100	—2,200 —1,900 300 —600
Trade	42,400 9,200 33,200 5,800 4,700 9,800 6,600 6,300	9,600 6,700	9,700 34,000 6,000 4,800 9,600 6,700	100 300 200 100 200 — 100	- 500 - 800 - 200 - 100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,100	6,000	5,900	100	200
Services and miscellaneous	24,300 4,700 2,800 16,800	4,400 2,700	4,500 2,600	300 100	200 200
Government	33,900 8,900 25,000				_ 300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	20,600 2,700 2,200 2,200 6,600 4,400 2,500	2,600 2,000 2,200 6,500 4,400	3,100 2,300 2,500 6,500 4,100	100 200 00 100 00	$ \begin{array}{c c} - & 400 \\ - & 100 \\ - & 300 \\ 100 \\ 300 \end{array} $

⁽¹⁾ Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

⁽²⁾ Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 611 selected Montana establishments.

⁽³⁾ Figures previously released have been revised on return from 983 such establishments.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

⁽⁵⁾ Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

⁽⁶⁾ Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

⁽⁷⁾ Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN JULY, 1958 AND JULY, 1957

Employment	New	Job A	Applica	ints	Job	Jobseekers in File			Job Placements					Job Placements							U. I. Clain Wk. 8-8	
Service	July	1958	July	1957	July	1958	July	1957		July	1958			July	1957		Wk	. 8-8				
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vct.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1958	1957				
Anaconda		176 69 177 18 106 59 21 99 15 34 72 84 18 15 43 82 32 28 43 14	58	199 2355 97 390 25 94 26 30 113 16 26 112 46 31 11 599 855 53 9	275 91 285 1,440 203 219 512 1,333 118 157 1,064 248 1800 103 198	597 210 688 104 25 61 365 49 49 171 368 24 25 41 287 87 67 67 67 49	122 701 324 1,279 66 84 114 82 647 273 72 218 906 57 83 95 670 257 83 95 670 257 83	30 203 79 504 24 23 10 10 194 61 9 66 230 7 7 7 7 16 210 49 20 8 49	45 396 156 73 33 33 164 60 317 59 156 131 810 209 222 95 59 60 34	49 824 255 16 101 374 53 767 466 396 229 108 27 155 57 329 174 901 99 1,550 12 51	94 1,220 411 89 134 407 217 827 783 455 385 239 837 214 113 410 383 1,123 194 1,609 72 85	36 183 124 37 29 178 72 45 269 23 209 122 88 114 39 60 190 285 85 43 29 27	32 410 224 31 43 51 213 83 258 43 257 150 517 98 75 104 222 215 88 88 66 51	67 618 371 84 108 433 140 779 441 408 316 132 56 61 137 91 291 182 58 1,482 8	282 573 235 166 395 404 802 423 1,540	17 237 164 22 37 270 120 77 221 46 292 134 93 103 70 64 193 105 75 75 19 26 34	* 281 591 591 1,413 80 33 79 93 186 566 569 82 446 124 744 92 82	98 425 28 961 38 27 26 19 290 42 46 1322 426 38 35 522 415 107 231 99 21				
TOTALS	4,388	1,287	4,864	1,497	11,784	3,442	6,419	1,847	3,308	6,993	10,301 	2,287] 3,289 	7,163	10,452	2,419	5,068 5,068	3,378 !				

^{*}Includes 129 claims of Federal Employees UC Program, 57 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average Weekly Earning			Averag	e Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earning			
INDUSTRY	July (1) 1958	June (2) 1958	July 1957	July (1) 1958	June (2) 1958	July 1957	July (1) 1958	June (2) 1958	July 1957	
All Manufacturing	\$92.05	\$92.02	\$82.51	40.2	40.2	37.3	\$2.29	\$2.29	\$2.23	
Durable goodsPrimary metals	88.49 91.31	87.47 91.39	79.45 87.05	39.9 39.7	39.7 39.7	36.3 38.1	2.22 2.30	2.21 2.30	2.19 2.28	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	100.25 82.52	102.51 86.03	91.93 74.99	41.0 41.2	41.5 41.8	39.6 41.1	2.44 2.00	2.47 2.06	2.32 1.83	
All Mining	95.14	97.48	98.90	38.2	39.2	38.0	2.49	2.49	2.60	
Metal mining	91.10	90.95	96.19	37.8	37.8	37.2	2.41	2.41	2.58	
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	95.88	96.93	89.84							
Transportation (except railroads)Utilities and communication	119.02 82.62	119.85 83.84	111.08 80.14	38.8	40.0	40.4	2.13	2.10	1.99	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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